

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 313952

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY SPY RING SENTENCES

REFTEL: SEOUL 3670

1. CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S STAFF AND CHURCH SOURCES HAVE CALLED DEPARTMENT STATING THAT DEATH SENTENCES ON KIM CHOL HYON AND THREE OTHER SEMINARIANS TRIED ON ANTI-COMMUNIST CHARGES IN CONNECTION WITH ALLEGED NORTH KOREAN SPY RING ON ROK COLLEGE CAMPUSES HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED BY ROK SUPREME COURT. WE HAVE NO OTHER INFORMATION, BUT CASE MAY BE THAT REFTTEL.

2. HAVING IN MIND THAT IN ONE CASE, COURT'S CONFIRMATION OF SENTENCE WAS SHORTLY FOLLOWED BY EXECUTION, YOU SHOULD MAKE EARLY APPROACH TO ROKG IF YOU CONFIRM REPORT OF DEATH
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SENTENCES. YOU SHOULD EXPRESS OUR STRONG HOPE THAT PRISONERS IN QUESTION WILL BE OFFERED EVERY OPPORTUNITY THE LAW AFFORDS TO APPLY FOR CLEMENCY. YOU SHOULD ALSO POINT OUT THE EXTREMELY ADVERSE EFFECT THAT CARRYING OUT OF DEATH SENTENCES ON SEMINARIANS WOULD HAVE IN U.S. YOU CAN ALSO NOTE THAT WE HAVE HAD EXPRESSIONS OF SERIOUS CONCERN

FROM CONGRESSIONAL AND CHURCH SOURCES.
ROBINSON

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